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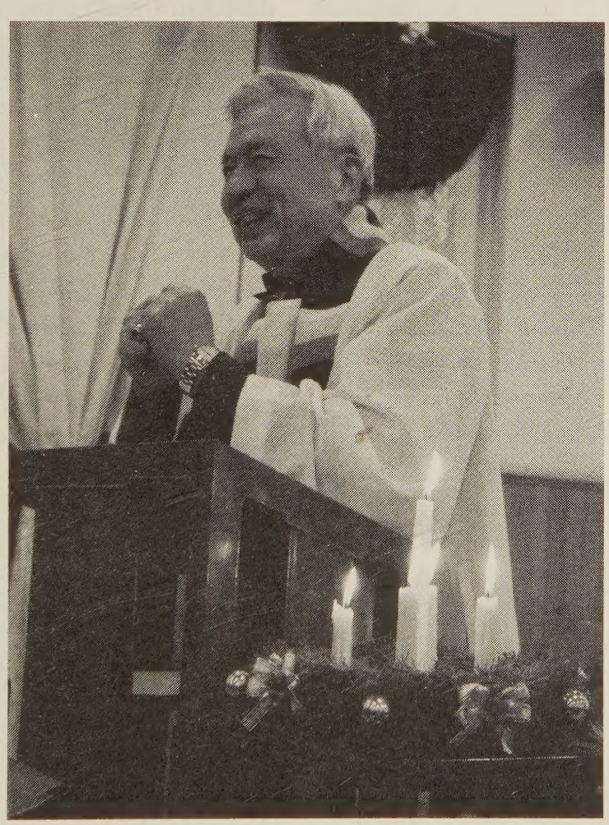
ANNOUNCEMENT: RT. REV. JOHN C. T. CHIEN

The Rt. Rev. John C. T. Chien (Bishop of Taiwan 1988-2001) died on March 5, 2013 after a short illness. His funeral was held on Saturday March 16 at St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi, and his Memorial Service was held on Saturday March 23 at St. John's Cathedral, Taipei.

Rt. Rev. John C. T. Chien 簡啓聰主教 (1940-2013) In Memoriam



On March 25, 1988, the Rt. Rev. John C. T. Chien 簡啓聰主教 was consecrated as the first native Taiwanese Bishop of Taiwan. A new era in the indigenization of the Taiwan Episcopal Church had dawned, history was in the making.

Born in a modest farming family in Gou-Bei Village, Dalin, Chia-Yi, southern Taiwan on March 23, 1940, John Chien's first direct contact with the Christian Gospel came as an undergraduate economics student at Tunghai University, Taichung when he attended English Bible studies led by Rev. William A. Buell. He was baptized at St. James' Episcopal Church, Taichung on December 25, 1962 and confirmed on January 20, 1963; followed a few years later (after military service) by the decision to respond to God's calling and enter Tainan Theological Seminary. Such a major break with tradition disturbed his parents greatly, as the oldest of 6 children he was expected to become the main breadwinner of the family. In fact his parents later came to support his decision, and over the following years virtually all the family became Christians; even establishing a mission station in their Gou-Bei home with regular weekly services.

On March 29, 1967, John Chien and his wife Grace H. N. Chiu 邱惠女 were married and thus began a lifetime of service together, Grace fully supporting and encouraging her husband in ministry. Grace, a music graduate and piano teacher, came from a devout Christian family; her father was a Presbyterian Minister. Only 2 months later, on May 21, 1967, John Chien was ordained deacon, followed by ordination as priest on November 30, 1967. He first served at

BISHOP AND MRS. CHIEN WITH FRIENDS AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI, 2013

St. Andrew's Church, Cha-ting (1967-69), then Grace Church, Tainan (1969-73). Overseas study at Virginia Theological Seminary led to John Chien being awarded Master of Sacred Theology in 1974 (and later honorary Doctor of Divinity in 1998). On his return from the USA, he served as rector of Good Shepherd Church, Taipei (1975-85) followed by a year (1985-6) at Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham, UK, then returning to Taiwan as Dean of St. John's Cathedral, Taipei (1986-87).

Of the 5 previous bishops of Taiwan, the first 2 were American, and the following 3 from Hong Kong; all had worked hard to establish a strong foundation for the diocese, preparing it well to be handed onto local leadership. Also in the same year, 1988, the Diocese of Taiwan was upgraded from missionary diocese to full diocesan status. Yet the 1980's were also a time of rapid economic development and great political upheaval, with the ending of martial law in 1987 and the transition towards democracy.

Bishop Chien's humble beginnings and his roots in the folk religion and ancestor worship of his forefathers, together with his integrity, his discipline for hard work, and his sense of justice and fair play meant much in this situation. The Taiwan Episcopal Church had elected a bishop who shared the background and values of the local people, yet who was also able to work across ethnic and political divisions, and help the church to more focus on its ministry of proclaiming the Gospel.

Diocesan Constitutions and Canons were revised, committees were reorganized, debate was encouraged, and all were respected regardless of their opinion. With Bishop Chien's background in economics and his prudent way of life, diocesan finances became more organized and transparent; the diocesan kindergarten ministry was strengthened, and his concern for evangelism and outreach developed.

Clergy training had become a crisis issue; there was a major dearth of younger clergy and yet a new generation of students at the Episcopal institution then known as St. John's and St. Mary's Institute of Technology (SJSMIT) in Taipei were being converted to Christ and called to offer for ministry. Bishop Chien supported a new program giving these students the chance to first serve in the church over a period of time, testing their call. Previously, clergy (including Bishop Chien himself) had been sent to Presbyterian seminaries, but the seminaries insisted on a 5-year training program for college graduates such as those from SJSMIT, which was considered unnecessarily lengthy. A major breakthrough came when he negotiated an agreement with Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taipei to allow future clergy to train on their 3-year seminary program.

The need for Anglican theological training for laity and clergy led to the continued development of the Trinity Hall Training Program, originally started in 1984. In 1997, Bishop Chien ordained Rev. Elizabeth F. J. Wei, Taiwan's first woman priest. He also initiated an Ancestor Memorial Liturgy, and the translation and publication in Mandarin Chinese of an important series of books on Anglicanism. Bishop Chien also faithfully served on the Board of

Trustees of both Tunghai University and SJSMIT for many years.

Bishop Chien helped establish and also served as President of the National Council of Churches of Taiwan (NCCT), promoting ecumenical projects and cooperation in Taiwan and overseas. He was treasurer of the Council of Churches of East Asia (CCEA), he promoted dialogue and exchange with the Anglican Church in Japan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Canada and USA; and twice attended the Lambeth Conference, 1988 and 1998.

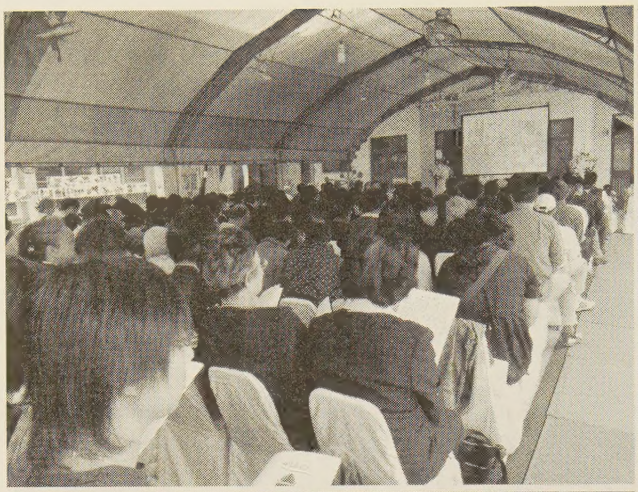
Bishop Chien retired on June 30, 2001 and returned with Grace to his home village of Gou-Bei where he continued to serve, preaching, celebrating and encouraging clergy and church members throughout the diocese. He died on March 5, 2013 after a short illness, and is survived by Grace, 3 children and 5 grandchildren, and by church members from all over Taiwan whose lives were blessed and enriched by this humble, gentle man of God.

For his wonderful life and ministry, we give thanks to Almighty God.

The above obituary was written in collaboration with 15-20 members of Bishop Chien's family, senior clergy, church members and members of the diocesan staff. It was submitted to the Episcopal News Service, and after some editing by ENS, it was published on their website http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com on April 4, 2013.

Bishop John C. T. Chien's Funeral: St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi, March 16, 2013

Bishop John C. T. Chien died peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of March 5, 2013 in Chia-Yi Christian Hospital. During the preceding few weeks while in hospital, he was visited by all the clergy and many church members, by many friends and all his family. All were in admiration for the calm and peaceful way that Bishop Chien faced his final illness and forthcoming death.



Bishop Chien's funeral was held at St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi on Saturday March 16 at 10:00am and attended by about 350 people. A large marquee was erected in the kindergarten playground next to the church where the overflow congregation watched the service on a large TV screen. The service was very well-organized and St. Peter's Church did a wonderful job of taking care of everyone. Everywhere was full of people who had come to pay their respects, including most of the clergy and many church members particularly from southern and central Taiwan. Rev. Simon Tsou, vicar of St. Peter's Church led the service, assisted by other clergy, and the sermon was given by Dean Samuel Lin of St. Johns' Cathedral, Taipei. Choirs from St. Peter's Church and St. James' Church, Taichung sang, and Holy Communion was served to all.

Bishop Chien's wife, Grace together with their 3 children and 5 grandchildren were all present and expressed their thanks to everyone for their support. It was a moving and fitting tribute to a much-loved bishop, family member and friend.

Bishop John C. T. Chien's Memorial Service: St. John's Cathedral, Taipei, March 23, 2013

Saturday March 23 would have been Bishop John C. T. Chien's 73rd birthday, so it was fitting that his Memorial Service be held that day at St. John's Cathedral, Taipei at 3:00pm. The cathedral was full, with many clergy from all over Taiwan, church members particularly from northern Taiwan, representatives from many other Christian denominations, as well as family and friends.

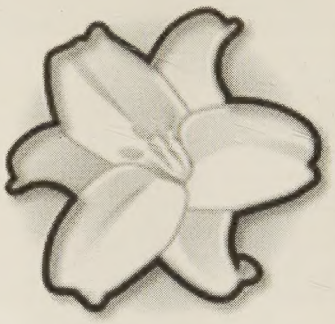
Bishop David J. H. Lai had returned a day early from the diocesan pilgrimage to Japan in order to be at the service, he preached on the theme of joy, one of the main characteristics of Bishop Chien's faith. Diocesan Chancellor Herbert Ma also spoke movingly in tribute (see photo above).

Canon Peter Ng, Asia-Pacific Officer for the Episcopal Church, traveled from New York to Taiwan especially for the occasion. He came on behalf of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and read out a letter from her during the service. The Archbishop of Hong Kong, Paul Kwong was represented by the Bishop of Western Kowloon, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Chan. The new Dean of St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, the Very Rev. Matthias Der, who is also a relative of the Chien family, also attended the service (the photo below shows our international visitors, left to right: Canon Peter Ng, Bishop Andrew Chan, Dean Matthias Der).

We continue to thank God for Bishop Chien's life and ministry, and humbly ask for your ongoing prayers particularly for Bishop Chien's wife, Grace and all the family at this time.

BISHOP'S LETTER

On March 29, 1967 I had the honor of being the acolyte at the wedding of Bishop John C. T. Chien and his wife Grace. Bishop Chien's sudden illness and then his death on March 5, 2013 led me to think back over the many years I have known him. For many of us, one of the overriding memories we have of Bishop Chien is of the many occasions when he would put his head back and roar with deep laughter. His laughter was infectious, and it came from a deep joy within his heart. 'Joy' was the theme of my sermon that I gave at Bishop Chien's Memorial Service on March 23. Using the word 'Joy' as an acronym, I shared about Bishop Chien's faith based on the 3 words: 'Jesus, Obedience, Yield'. Bishop Chien's humility, his gentleness and his joy will always be a testimony to his deep faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful to all of you who kindly sent condolences to the diocese; thank you for your prayers and support. Please do continue to uphold Grace and the Chien family in your prayers.



Bishop Chien's Memorial Service was held on the day before Palm Sunday and thus the beginning of Holy Week and then Easter. Immediately after Easter was Tomb-Sweeping Festival. At a speech I gave to a community group someone asked me how we can reconcile our traditional Chinese festivals with our Christian faith. At Tomb-Sweeping Festival, everyone makes their annual pilgrimage to clean up the graves of their ancestors, to make offerings and to pray. For Christians we can hold a short prayer service in the graveyard, thanking God for our ancestors and remembering them before God. We can plant flowers, so making our graveyards more like parks rather than places of fear that make people afraid to visit. It is because of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ that Christians are not afraid of death, and of visiting graves. Easter is not just a one-day celebration with meals and egg hunts; rather it is the day that changed the whole world, bringing victory over death and evil, and a new hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

It was also the Tomb-Sweeping Festival season when we visited N. E. Japan in mid-March for a pilgrimage to the earthquake and tsunami disaster area. This was a pilgrimage that had long been planned and eagerly awaited; a group of us from the Diocese of Taiwan were invited by our companion diocese, the Diocese of Osaka to make a pilgrimage together to visit Tohoku, where the earthquake and tsunami disaster happened on March 11, 2011.

According to the Red Cross, 179 countries sent donations to Japan after the disaster, totaling ¥22.7 billion, of which the second-largest amount (¥2.9 billion) was donated by Taiwan. The Japanese Anglican Church (NSKK) also let us know that after the disaster the Episcopal Church of Taiwan was its largest donor of aid.

Our group visit, from March 18-23, consisted of 13 people from Taiwan. On March 19, we flew from Osaka to Sendai Airport together with a group from the Diocese of Osaka and spent several days in the area visiting the various organizations and projects set up to help the victims, including the NSKK Anglican Church Project 'Let's Walk Together'. Everywhere we went, we were given a really warm welcome and felt that the whole pilgrimage was so worthwhile.

Why did we go? All of us in Taiwan rely on the News media for all our information about every disaster. None of us had actually been to that area of Japan to see for ourselves the real situation after the earthquake and tsunami. This was our chance to see and to learn first-hand, to know deeply the reality, what kind of needs the people had, how we can pray more effectively and how we can show our continuing concern. Now, after the visit, we may be able to find new ways to help, we are currently reporting back to our church members and praying about this matter. May God guide and lead us each step of the way.

Companion Diocese Pilgrimage to Tohoku, N. E. Japan

Felicity Tsou Ching-Yi 鄒沁怡 Advent Church

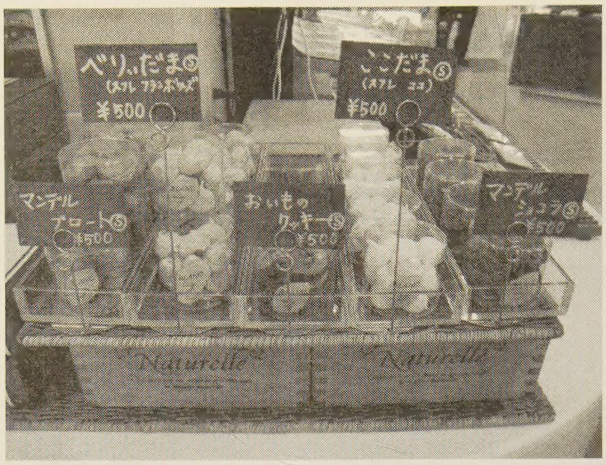
I truly give thanks to Almighty God that I had the opportunity to take part in this pilgrimage to N. E. Japan. I learned so much on the visit!

Our group from Taiwan totaled 13, and we were accompanied by a group of 6 from the Diocese of Osaka who came for the whole time, plus another 7 who came for part of the time, including Bishop Osamu Onishi and Rev. Peter Akira Iwaki. Our ages ranged from 18 to over 70. From Taiwan, our group consisted of 3 from St. John's Cathedral, 5 from St. James' Church, 1 from the Church of the Leading Star, 1 from Advent Church, the Rev. Joseph Wu from St. Luke's Church, Hualien, plus Bishop David J. H. Lai and his wife, Lily.

On Monday March 18, we flew to Osaka. That evening the Diocese of Osaka hosted us to a wonderful welcome dinner at St. Peter's Church, Osaka. The following day we gathered very early for a domestic flight of about 2 hours to Sendai in N. E. Japan, the epicenter area of the great earthquake and tsunami. We were there to visit the people and places affected by the disaster and to learn together with our friends from our sister diocese in Osaka.

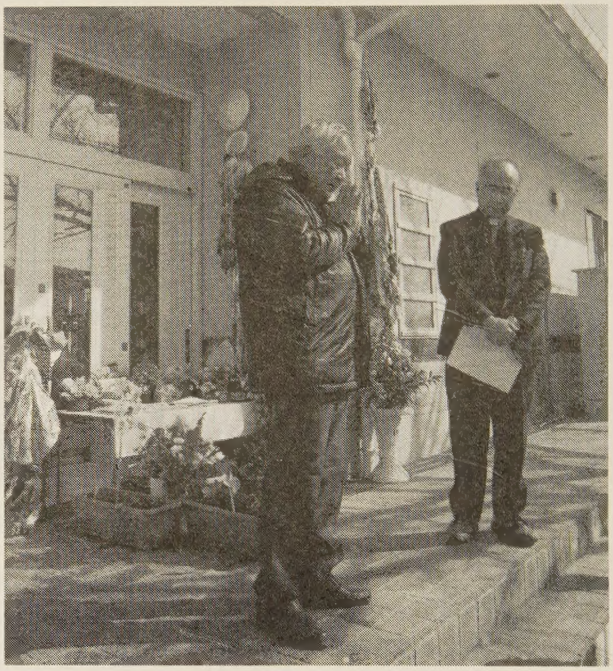
We spent the next few days in the Sendai area. In all we visited these places during our visit: 名取市 (Natori City) and 気仙沼市 (Kesennuma City) in Miyagi Prefecture, 陸前高田市 (Rikuzentakata City) in Iwate Prefecture, 南三陸町志津川 (Minamisanriku Town, Shizugawa) in Miyagi Prefecture, 石巻市 (Ishinomaki City) in Miyagi Prefecture, 仙台市 (Sendai City) the capital of Miyagi Prefecture, 秋保温泉 (Akiu Hot Spring) in Miyagi Prefecture and 新地町(Shinchi Town) in Fukushima Prefecture.

On Tuesday, after our arrival in the disaster area, we visited a temporary housing complex, built for people who had lost their homes (see photo above). In the afternoon, we visited the Social Welfare Center. The building had been destroyed in the tragedy, so we visited their beautiful new building. The Social Welfare Center has many wonderful projects including working with the mentally challenged to help them make a livelihood, selling home-made



breads (see photo above), cookies and crafts.

On Wednesday, we drove around the area nearest to the epicenter of the earthquake and tsunami. At each place we disembarked from the bus and held a short prayer service for the victims (see photo right). The prayer booklet was in both Japanese and Chinese, so we could all join in. On Wednesday evening, we listened to a Filipino Christian sister as she shared with us about how foreigners had experienced the earthquake and tsunami. Many were working in Japan as domestic carers; many were also foreign spouses, married to Japanese nationals. The tsunami warnings were all broadcast in Japanese, and yet many of the foreigners could not understand Japanese. Now the church is helping to teach them the Japanese language, helping them to gain 'carer' qualifications, and to train as teachers of English.



On Thursday morning we held a worship service and Eucharist at the hotel with both Bishop Onishi of Osaka and Bishop Lai of Taiwan. Then we drove further south along the coast to visit an elementary school that had been destroyed. In the afternoon we visited the office of the Anglican Church NSKK 'Let's Walk Together' Project Office (see bottom photo below). There we were also delighted to meet the Rt. Revd. John Hiromichi Kato, Bishop of the Tohoku Diocese.

On Friday we drove south along the coast to visit an Anglican Church that had been badly damaged, although as it was built on a hill, it was actually less damaged than the surrounding buildings. During the tsunami it had become a refuge and shelter for many. They are now trying to re-

BISHOP KATO, BISHOP LAI AND BISHOP ONISHI WITH THE PILGRIMAGE GROUP

build. Then we visited a kindergarten which was now relocated and rebuilt in a new location. Later we flew back to Osaka, and on Saturday flew back to Taiwan.

At each place someone would share about what had happened at that place during the earthquake and tsunami, and what had happened since. We visited over 10 different locations during our pilgrimage. In fact our visit coincided with the annual Tomb-Sweeping Festival (see photo above). People were remembering their loved ones, and little shrines were decorated with flowers and reminders of their lost ones' lives, so it was a particularly poignant time to visit.

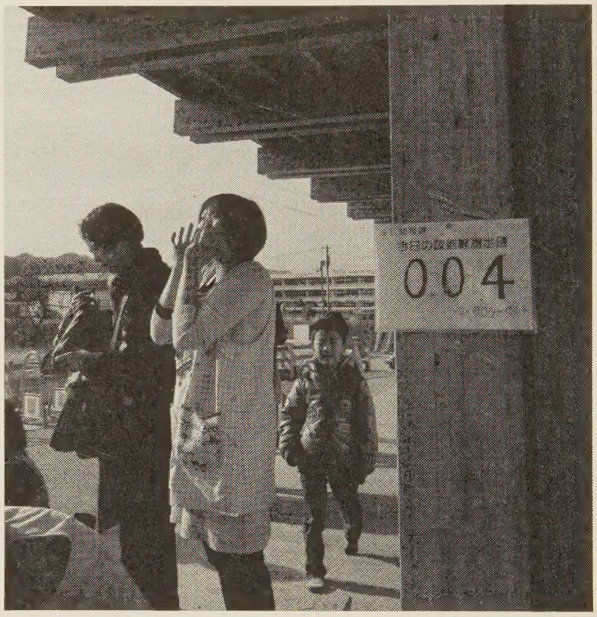
The great earthquake of March 11, 2011 was 9.0 on the Richter Scale and happened at 2:46pm. It was the largest recorded earthquake ever to hit Japan. The tsunami's tallest waves reached from 10-40metres, and moved 5-10km inland. The temperature at that time was 4.7℃ so it was very cold. Over 15,800 people died in the tragedy with over 2,000 people still listed as missing.

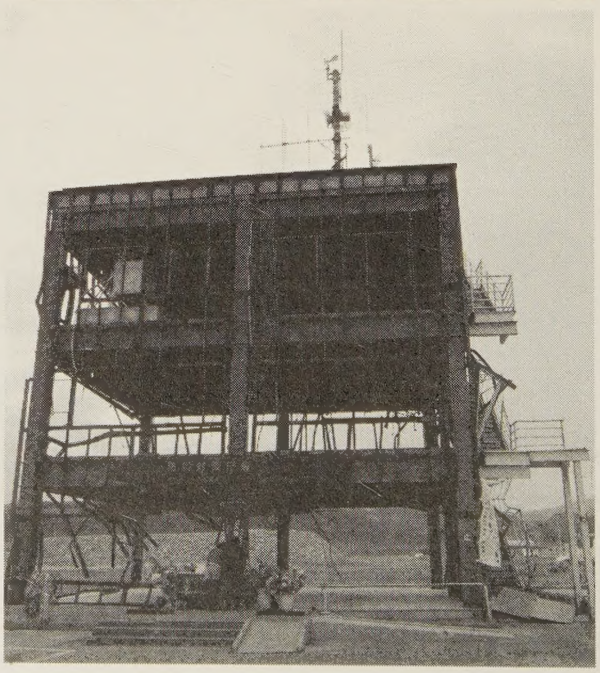
Just why were there so many deaths and so much damage? One reason was people were not alert; they were not prepared for such a disaster on such an immense scale. Even when the tsunami came, people were only expecting small waves, not such huge ones. Most people had no chance to escape, and even many of those who could escape actually delayed to try to collect their belongings together.

My overall impression was one of mile after mile of ground covered in flattened brown and yellow dirt, totally empty of anything (see photo below) except the foundation outlines of buildings. All the debris, the devastated buildings and vehicles have now been cleared away. Even though the government wants to preserve some of the devastated buildings as memorials, in fact the majority of people want everything removed. Their memories of that tragic event are still raw, and they would prefer to remove all the tragic memories of that day. The government is encouraging people to decide such matters democratically by voting.

The kindergarten that we visited on the final day had been a very famous kindergarten in the local

area, with 190 children prior to the disaster. The kindergarten ministry was of special interest to us as we have so many kindergartens in Taiwan, and one of our group, Ms. Yu was formerly principal of Leading Star Kindergarten in Taichung. (In the top photo, she is pictured in the middle). Fuji Kindergarten was not a NSKK church kindergarten but one of their teachers was a NSKK member. She died in the tsunami after making desperate efforts to save the lives of the children. Her name was Junko Nakaso. Immediately after the earthquake, the tsunami alert went off, and about 140 of the children were quickly picked up by their parents. Unfortunately many parents found the roads blocked by debris and couldn't get through, so the remaining 50 were loaded onto the 2 school buses, the intention being to evacuate. However the tsunami came so fast and it was so dangerous that they could not escape. The fully-loaded bus was washed 1-2 km away and pushed over sideways. The teachers helped the children escape through the roof of the bus, but with water everywhere and no rescue until the following day, it was a traumatic situation. 12 children and teachers perished in the tsunami. We visited the old building which was still in reasonable shape but brought back such traumatic memories that a new kindergarten has been built on another site, and the original one is currently a temporary memorial to the children and teachers who died. We also visited the new building and met with the principal. We saw the notice announcing that day's radioactivity reading of 0.04 (see middle photo left), a necessary reminder of hidden dangers resulting from the nuclear disaster at nearby Fukishima.

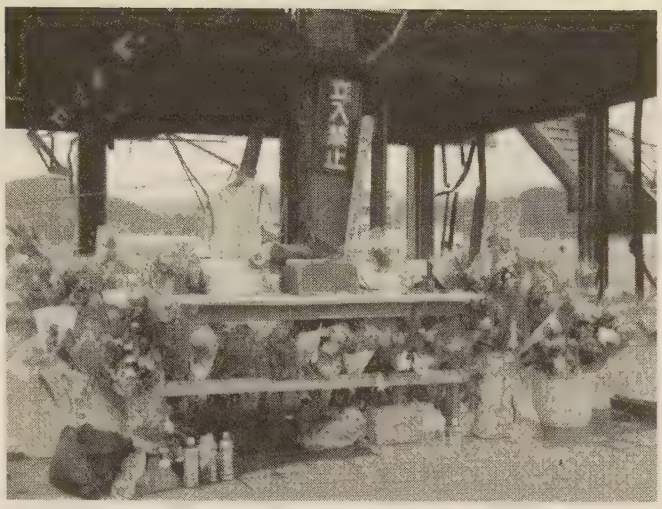




We also visited an elementary school located right on the coast. There was only one exit out, and everyone had desperately tried to get to higher ground, but in a flat coastal area, all higher ground was too far away. 74 children and teachers from the school perished, 4 are still missing. When the debris was cleared, a recording was found of a music class that was in session when the tragedy struck. The children had been recording songs in preparation for their graduation, and it was so moving and tragic to listen to their voices.

After the earthquake

struck, many people went to the local emergency shelters and police stations for help and safety. In the emergency center that we visited, we saw only the metal structure, the remains of the outline of the building (see bottom photo, previous page). The tsunami was so big and the waves so powerful that all the rest of the building was washed away. People were clinging onto the antenna on the roof, where even they were washed away. All the people sheltering there died, their corpses washed up all covered in yellow mud. Now the base of the shelter is a Memorial Shrine (see photo above).



After the disaster, many police and firefighters came from other provinces in Japan to help in the rescue and relief effort. Now 2 years later, many are suffering from symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress. But fortunately not all the stories were so tragic. In one community building, on the day of the disaster, there was a gathering of elderly people from the local community. When the alarms went off, they were evacuated to an upper floor, and 300-400 people were saved.

The manager of the Social Welfare Center, who we visited on the first day, told us how his house and office were both destroyed but he was one of the few who had started rebuilding only 10 days after the tragedy. Now two years after the tragedy, his is still the only house rebuilt in the whole neighborhood.

VISITING THE 'LET'S WALK TOGETHER' PROJECT

In the 'Let's Walk Together' Project, they make contact with the victims and bring them supplies, give support and care, and pray with them. Their ministry is especially to help 'Second Floor' Victims, people whose homes are perhaps still standing and who are not a priority for the government and relief agencies, but who are traumatized nonetheless. They also cooperate to help the Social Welfare Center and other ministries.

And the long-term future?

In the aftermath, we saw miles and miles of flattened ground, totally empty, where previously homes and whole towns had stood. The tsunami penetrated so far inland that previously rich farmland was covered in saltwater, which even now renders the ground unable to produce crops. Areas once abundant in rice and vegetables are now totally sterile. People's livelihoods have been destroyed, businesses have collapsed and there are no jobs. Many of the coastal cities had relied on fishing for their income, but with the nuclear disaster at Fukishima, they are unable to sell any fish caught in the area, because nobody dares eat it.

Many of the people feel powerless and unable to

make a decision about whether to rebuild or not, and whether to stay in the area or move away. It is the same problem facing businesses and the government. It is a remote area, and if they invest and rebuild, will people and businesses move back here - or would they prefer to live elsewhere? Everyone is faced with the same dilemma: should they stay or should they move away?

SHIP WASHED UP MILES INLAND

I know that there is no material help that I can give to the victims of the disaster. But listening to them I learned so much, about what they faced at the time, and how they are standing back on their feet after such a terrible experience. Our visit gave them some encouragement, support and empathy. We cannot comprehend the depth of their sadness – how they can lose everyone in their family and all their possessions within one hour and have nothing left, but we are obligated to share what we have learned and seen. We had all seen many TV News reports after the disaster, but none of us really had any idea what the true situation was like. Now I can appreciate just how terrible the real situation was, and the least we can do is to pray.

In one area we visited there had been a forest of 70,000 pine trees, all about 130 years old. All of them were washed away in the disaster and destroyed, except one lonesome pine tree that still stands there totally alone, erect and yet very vulnerable. It is currently fenced off and is to be preserved at great cost as the land around is salty and devastated (see photo below). This 'Pine Tree of Hope' is seen as a symbol of that fateful day; in the face of such extreme adversity and utmost tragedy it stands as a symbol of hope and resilience for the people of N. E. Japan as they rebuild their lives.

THE PINE TREE OF HOPE

The Diocese of Taiwan welcomed a group of kindergarten masters from the Diocese of Osaka from February 21-23, their visit included visiting Good Shepherd Church and Kindergarten.

As part of his sabbatical, the Bishop of Hawaii, the Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick and his wife Bea visited the Diocese of Taiwan from February 25 to March 3. They were accompanied for the second part of their visit by Rev. Peter Wu and his wife Mimi. Bishop Bob preached at the Opening Service of the annual diocesan convention (see right photo) and they visited most of the churches in the diocese, plus Sun Moon Lake and other scenic spots.

The Diocese of Taiwan Annual Convention 2013 was hosted by St. Mark's Church, Pingtung on March 1-2. The last time they had hosted the event was 35 years ago! After the Opening Service at St. Mark's Church, the meetings were held at the Grand Hotel, Kaohsiung.

Bishop David J. H. Lai attended the Spring House of Bishops in the USA, March 8-12, followed by a jointly organized pilgrimage with our sister diocese, the Diocese of Osaka, to the 2011 earthquake-stricken area of Tokuhu, N. E. Japan, March 18-23.

The Diocese of Taiwan welcomed 3 visitors from The Episcopal Church in New York: Canon Peter Ng (Asia-Pacific Officer), Mrs. Lori Ionnitiu

OUR 4 VIP VISITORS FROM HAWAII WITH BISHOP LAI AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OPENING SERVICE

(General Convention Manager) and Rev. Canon Chuck Robertson (Chaplain to the Presiding Bishop); they visited the Diocese of Taiwan from April 7-15 to make preliminary preparations for the Episcopal Church House of Bishops (HOB) Meeting, to be held in Taipei in September 2014.

The first official Diocese of Taiwan HOB 2014 Planning Committee was held during their visit at the diocesan office, on Friday April 12 (see photo below). The chair of the Planning Committee is Diocesan Chancellor Herbert Ma, Rev. Elizabeth Wei is secretary.

FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE DIOCESE OF TAIWAN HOUSE OF BISHOPS 2014 PLANNING COMMITTEE: APRIL 12, 2013, DIOCESAN OFFICE, TAIPEI

Visit to Taiwan: Bishop Roger Chung Jaomalaza, 3rd Bishop of Antsiranana, Madagascar

My wife, Alice and I were delighted to spend a month in Taiwan over the Chinese New Year Festival visiting Alice's elderly parents. Alice was born in Taiwan and spent the first 9 years of her life in Taiwan before moving with her parents to Mauritius. Alice's parents, Rev. and Mrs. Hsu were Presbyterian missionaries from Taiwan to Mauritius and her father served as pastor of a Chinese Hakka Church there from 1962 to 1977. They had a very fruitful ministry in Mauritius and two churches are now implanted on the island. I myself was born and brought up in Mauritius, also from a Chinese Hakka background, so I got to know Alice as a teenager.

When it was time for Alice's family to leave Mauritius in 1977, Alice decided to stay in Mauritius with me, and we were married before her parents left to return to Taiwan. In 1983 I was ordained, and served as Anglican priest and later as Archdeacon of Mauritius. In March 2003, I became Bishop of Antsiranana in Madagascar. Mauritius and Madagascar are both part of the Province of the Indian Ocean, so I was already familiar with Madagascar and the church there. Alice and I served in Madagascar until 2009.

Unfortunately I had a severe stroke that year while visiting our son in France, and was hospitalized in France for 3 months. We could not return to Madagascar and instead we returned home to Mauritius, where I am still in rehabilitation.

After my parents-in-law returned to Taiwan in 1977 they served in churches in southern Taiwan. After retirement they continued to live in Pingtung, but last year just after they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary and as my father-in-law approached his 90th birthday, they moved to the Presbyterian-run Suang-Lien Elderly Home to receive special care. Suang-Lien Elderly Home (see top photo next page) is located right on the N. W. coast of Taiwan, only a mile or so from Advent Church.

This was our first visit to see them in their new home, as they have reached a new stage in this fleeting life. I wish to thank our friends from Advent Church who are giving them pastoral care, encouragement and showing them Christian love.

On this visit, Advent Church members, Jeff Kuo and his wife Janey (see photo left) met us courteously in Tao-yuan and took us to Advent Church. As

we arrived on Sunday early in the morning, it was the church celebration time. Alice went to see her parents at Suang-Lien and attended the church service with them. I decided to attend the celebration at the Advent Church. I was very impressed by the beautiful art work in the church that drew our hearts to awe and prayer.

Rev. Lennon Chang presided over the service and Rev. David Chee preached. A magnificent choir dressed in green design cassocks, conducted so professionally by Mrs. Chee, gave a wonderful atmosphere to the Sunday service. I was asked to give the final blessing and as I come from Madagascar and Mauritius, I gave the blessing in Malagasy, French and English to show the universal love that bonds us. I was invited to attend a fellowship meeting for the seniors over a cup of tea led by Professor Andrew Chang. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Duan, who is also a stroke survivor like me. We had a great time of fellowship and I shared my story of my stroked hemiplegy and witnessed how God had given me His JOY. (The joy of the Lord is my strength! Nehemiah 8:10).

Over the month we spent in Taiwan we received wonderful hospitality from many clergy and church members, for which we are most grateful.

I also specially thank Bishop Lai for his welcome and hospitality; I had the joy of meeting up with him and drinking excellent Chinese tea with him, as he is a real connoisseur. He also gave me the book which he had written concerning the Chinese Art of Tea. We prayed together with the staff at Morning Prayer in the Diocesan chapel. We had lunch together and tasted the famous Taiwanese dumplings, Siao Lung-Pao, little dragon dumplings.

I wish to thank the Diocese of Taiwan for all the warm hospitality received during our visit in Taiwan. I really look forward to coming again to visit my in-laws and the Diocese of Taiwan in the near future!

BISHOP ROGER AND ALICE WITH ALICE'S PARENTS, REV. AND MRS. HSU AT SHUANG-LIEN ELDERLY HOME

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

Chaplain: Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師

The book 'The Jewish Bishop and the Chinese Bible: S.I.J. Schereschewsky, 1831-1906' by Irene Eber (1999) has been translated into Mandarin Chinese and published by St. John's University (see photo right). Bishop S. I. J. Schereschewsky was the Bishop of Shanghai and founder of St. John's University (Shanghai) in 1879. The translation is a valuable resource for all those interested in church and university history.

Anglican / Episcopal visitors to St. John's University recently have included the Bishop of Hawaii, Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick and his wife Bea, accompanied by Rev. Peter and Mrs. Mimi Wu on March 7. On April 2, a group of 20 including 13 principals of Anglican High Schools from Hong Kong visited SJU (see middle photo right). Ms. Lori Ionnitiu and Canon Peter Ng came to visit on April 8 in preparation for the House of Bishops 2014 in Taiwan.

St. John's University celebrated its 46th anniversary at the end of April with a Memorial Service for Bishop James Wong on Friday April 26. The service was attended by students who receive scholarships in memory of Bishop Wong, and the theme of the sermon was to help the students to understand the great sacrifice and dedication that Bishop Wong gave to establishing this school. SJU President Chen presented one of the students with a red envelope on behalf of all those in attendance (see bottom photo below).

The following day, Saturday April 27 was the formal SJU celebration. Despite early morning torrential rain, the sun came out by lunchtime, and there were student celebrations with stalls and performances outside, while the formal proceedings took place inside. Earlier in the week the annual Fun Run had attracted a large number of participants, also happening just after a rain storm!

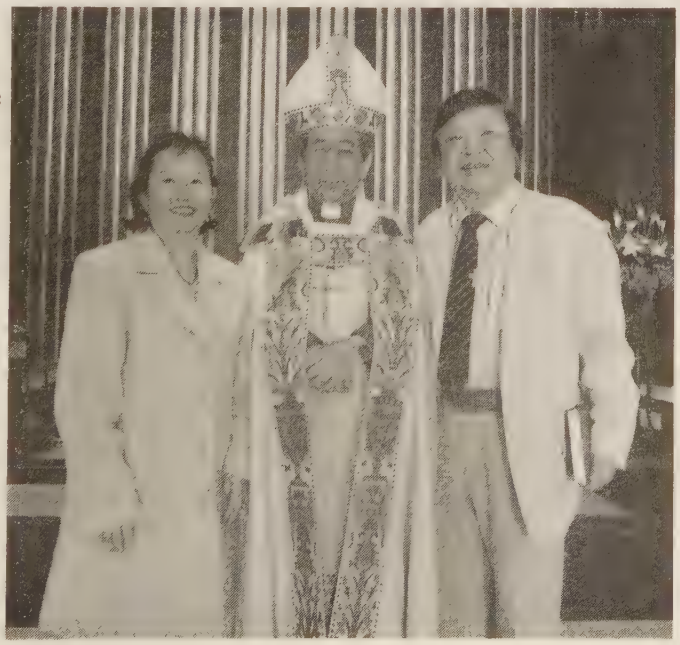
Please continue to pray for St. John's University especially for student recruitment, new courses starting and sister-school relationships.

ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師 Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章會吏

Advent Church was honored to send a choir to sing at the Memorial Service for Bishop John C. T. Chien, held at St. John's Cathedral on Saturday March 23. A few years ago Bishop Chien and his wife Grace spent Christmas here at Advent Church and took part in all the services and activities. Many people have warm memories of their visit on that great occasion.

Lent and Easter were special seasons at Advent Church as always. Holy Week services were well attended and very meaningful (see photo above of foot-washing on Holy Thursday). Easter was welcomed with the Easter fire, lit at the door of the church. We were delighted that 4 people were baptized at the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve, including 2 students from the SJU Chaplaincy fellowship group. A week after Easter, Bishop Lai came for a confirmation service and 7 people were confirmed, including our church secretary, May and her husband Robert (see photo right).



Visitors this semester have included Bishop Roger Chung Jaomalaza and his wife Alice from Mauritius; Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick and his wife Bea, Rev. Peter and Mrs. Mimi Wu from the Diocese of Hawaii; Mr. Lyn Hovey, designer of our stained glass artwork; a group of 20 principals from Hong Kong Anglican High School; Rev. Dr. Franco Kwan 關燦康牧師, former Chaplain of St. John's University, now Rector of True Sunshine Episcopal Church in San Francisco, USA (see photo below - Franco is in the middle); and Canon Peter Ng and Ms. Lori Ionnitiu from the Episcopal Church in New York. We have been honored to receive so many visitors, welcome to all!

Please uphold in prayer Rev. David Chee, who worships here at Advent Church and whose wife Amy is our choir director and organist. David had quintuple heart bypass surgery on April 22, he is making an excellent recovery.

In the last semester Advent Church has received excellent advice and assistance with its lighting and sound system from one of our alumni. He has spent much time working with us to try to get the lighting and sound system all coordinated with each other and with the stained glass artwork. As a result, we have installed some new lights at ground

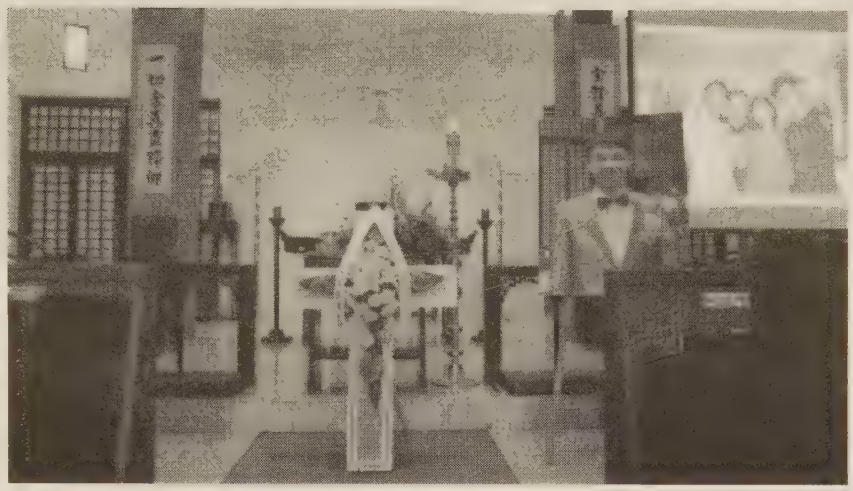
level behind the altar which shine upwards onto the hanging sculpture, this makes the Jacob's Ladder sculpture much brighter. The lights can also change color which makes the lighting effects very special. The stained glass artist Mr. Lyn Hovey and the sculptor Mr. Michio Ihara both fully support this new lighting system.

A new outreach program this semester happens early on Monday mornings, starting before 8:00am. 6 of our church members plus some helpers go to the local elementary school for classes on character and value education with the children, plus sharing with some of the parent helpers. This is an extension of our ministry in the local junior high school and has been well-received by the schools concerned. On Saturday afternoons we also have art classes and ukulele classes for 24 local elementary school children with Bible teaching and sharing beforehand.

One of the highlights of this semester has been the long-awaited wedding of our Junior Warden Mr. Wu 吳家圭 and his new wife Ms. Wang 汪雯婷 (see photos on this page). They met through the ministry of the SJU chaplaincy when they were both studying here as students. They both come from Taipei, and Ms. Wang's friends from her home church attended the wedding in great numbers. A coachload came, plus a choir from their Sunday School who sang beautifully for the occasion. Their pastor preached the sermon too. Mr. Wu was baptized and confirmed at Advent Church and has continued to worship here after graduation. Now we welcome them both here as a newly-married couple, and we wish them a wonderful new life together!

On Pentecost Sunday, Advent Church celebrated by inviting all the church members to wear red, the effect was stunning! The epistle reading was given by 9 members of the congregation who are fluent in 9 different languages: Taiwanese, Hakka, Cantonese, Japanese, Sichuanese, English, Russian, A-Mei and Mandarin Chinese. The background powerpoint was given in Mandarin Chinese so that everyone could follow along. A beautiful and fitting way to celebrate Pentecost.

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Herbert Barker



We were very sad to lose a young and dedicated church member 林冠廷 Lin Guan-Ting (known as Frank) just before Chinese New Year. Tragic though it was, in fact his funeral on January 27 (see photos here), was a great celebration of his life.

Frank was the happiest, most cheerful and fun-loving boy you could ever meet, full of laughter and always with an amazing acrobatic skill to show us or a new song to play us on his guitar. Frank's parents sadly divorced when he was young and he and his older brother lived with their devoted mother. But little by little they started to come along to Good Shepherd Church and get involved – Frank was baptized a few years ago, his mother got involved in the choir and music then in working here (she is now the supervisor of the Seniors Ministry at Good Shepherd Social Services Center), and then his father was baptized and confirmed last year.

On January 13, 2013 his parents celebrated their reconciliation on what would have been their 20th wedding anniversary by holding a celebration in the church including blessing of rings – Frank proudly escorted his mother up the aisle, and so the family began a new chapter of their life together.

Tragically, exactly one weekend later, Frank collapsed and died while playing basketball, only a few days before his 17th birthday. It transpired that he had a serious heart condition which nobody ever knew about, and his life expectancy would not have gone beyond middle 30's. Praise God in fact that nobody knew – because knowing would have placed so many restrictions on his lifestyle, no sports, no acrobatics, nothing energetic – and he would have been miserable.

Frank's funeral was a celebration of his life, mostly led by the Good Shepherd Youth Group and rector Rev. Lily Chang. Frank's dream had always been to be able to invite his school friends to church, and they all came. There were well over 100, possibly nearer to 200 people there, mostly teenagers. We pray that they were all moved by the joy and peace, the life and celebration of that service – it was such a wonderful testimony to the difference our faith makes in life, and ultimately too in death. Please do pray for his parents and older brother, and all the family at this time of grief.

We were pleased to welcome a group of kindergarten teachers from our sister diocese of Osaka on February 22. They visited Good Shepherd for a sharing time with Bishop Lai and Good Shepherd Kindergarten (see photo right).

DIOCESE OF OSAKA KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS VISIT GOOD SHEPHERD

Mother's Day weekend, May 11-12 saw 80 people from both Chinese and English congregations, plus some from Chung-Li Outreach Center joining together for our annual church weekend away, this time in Hualien on Taiwan's east coast. 2013 is also the 50th anniversary of Good Shepherd Church and we had a big birthday cake to celebrate!

Early on Saturday morning we gathered at Taipei Main Train Station to catch the 7:10am train for the 2-hour ride to Hualien (see photos below). We left Taipei in a thunderstorm and torrential rain, in fact it continued to rain in Taipei over most of the weekend. On the east coast, however, although it was wet too, fortunately the rain cleared up whenever we had something outside that was important to see! We traveled in 2 coaches south down the coast to visit some famous scenic spots, plus a bit of shopping. That evening we stayed overnight in the Hualien R. C. Pastoral Center. The next morning, after an early morning service, led by Rev. Lily Chang and Rev. Herbert Barker (see middle photo), we departed in 10 minibuses for a visit to the nearby 慕谷慕魚 Mukumugi Gorge, driven by a team of wonderful guides from the Truku Indigenous People, who live in the area. Their history is fascinating and they shared a lot with us, most are Christians too. Mukumugi Gorge has only been opened up to the public in recent years, and the number of visitors is carefully controlled to preserve the environment. The rain stopped and we were able to enjoy the spectacular scenery, the blue-green water in the river, the marble rocks and the high cliffs. Then at the end, we stopped on the big red bridge over the gorge for some Truku Indigenous dancing (see bottom photo, following page)!

It was a weekend of great fellowship and fun, and so nice that different parts of the Good Shepherd Community could all come together and spend time together. As it was Mother's Day weekend, many church members brought along their own mothers from far and wide, and some brought their whole family, including many who are not yet Christians. It was a wonderful witness to all.

We were also particularly pleased to welcome Ms. Hana Ozaki to join us on this trip. Hana is from our sister diocese of Osaka, Japan, a member of St. Stephen's Church, Osaka and is currently studying in Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taipei. She has been warmly welcomed by the Good Shepherd Joshua Youth Group (see photo above, Hana is in the center).

We are delighted to announce that Bishop Lai is coming to our Chung-Li Outreach Center on Sunday July 7 for a blessing and consecration service. From then onwards our outreach center will become known as Christ Church 基督堂 with 'mission station' status. We already have our own executive committee, under the authority of Good Shepherd Church and rector Rev. Lily Chang.

On Easter Day we held a special outing with a wonderful Easter meal for 40 people.

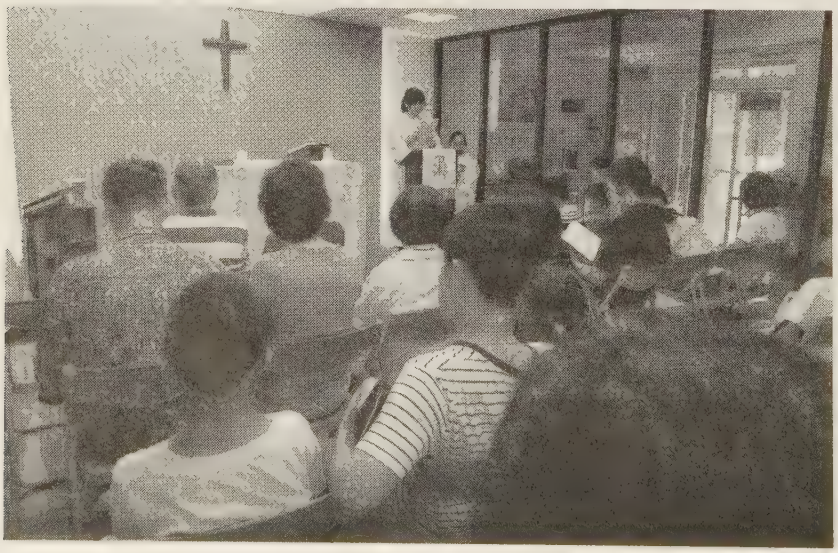
We are delighted that some of our church members were able to attend the Good Shepherd weekend trip to Hualien. Here we are on the train (see photo above)!

On April 13, we moved to a new location (see photo below), very close to the previous center, but off the main road, and therefore considerably cheaper than the place we were renting before. It is actually the first floor of an apartment block, with a large meeting room, separated from the main entrance by a glass divider. It is also more like a church in its style, and we started worshiping there immediately after moving in.

To welcome the local community to our new center, we held a big celebration on the afternoon of Sunday May 26. We had 10 stalls, every family had their own stall selling whatever they would like to, and the proceeds went to the S.O.S Children's Village in nearby Chung-Li. We have had close contact with SOS for many years, and their ukulele group of 16 children came to the morning service and then performed for us in the afternoon (see photo below). It was a very joyous occasion, and

we were also honored to welcome the local community leader who came to the opening ceremony. There were also displays of dancing, balloons, tea and refreshments for everyone. It was a great opportunity for the Outreach Center to reach out to the local community. And we also raised NT$ 8,400 for SOS!

Please do pray for us in our new location, and for the continuing ministry in the local community.



Good Shepherd's English Congregation

Rev. Dr. Herbert Barker

"Report on the Seminar for Lay Leadership in a Global Village Church"

...for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. Isaiah 56

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

I am not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world. Socrates, from Plutarch, Of Banishment, Greek philosopher in Athens (469 BC - 399 BC)

...God's purpose is realized in the healing of all the nations. Revelation 22:5

We at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd are a global village church. Our identity as a global church rests on ancient scriptures and wisdom traditions, both secular and Biblical. Our face is a shaded image of the earth's peoples, Asian, Europeans, and Africans---red and yellow, black and white. We are multilingual, multicultural, international, ecumenical, and people of faith and seekers of faith. We are a people of the nations. Therefore, in recognition of our diversity as a global Christian community within an Anglican tradition, I have been facilitating a seminar for young people who seek to become leaders within a global village church.

We have been meeting weekly since December 2012. There are five members in our study group. Our four students include a male from Finland who has lived in Taiwan for more than three years and recently married a Taiwanese. He works in a Taiwanese public relations firm. He studied Theology in Scotland for four years. He has a Lutheran and Methodist religious background.

There are two Taiwanese males, twin brothers. Both are social workers. One of them studied and graduated from an American university in California. Both speak English fluently. They have had years of experience as members of Evangelical churches. Both report that they now feel at home in our Episcopal community church.

Finally, our only female member is from the Caribbean island of St. Lucia where she is a journalist. She has been studying for over 2 years in Taiwan. The Roman Catholic Church has shaped her religious formations since her childhood.

As noted above, I am the seminar facilitator. I am an Anglo American, who attended high school in Germany. I was married to a Japanese national until her death. I am presently married to a former Chinese national. I served as an American military chaplain in Asia, Europe, and in North America. I was an ordained United Methodist minister for over 30 years before being ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1997. I have also taught "World Religions" for ten years with the University of Maryland on campuses in South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and at the United States Embassy in Beijing.

Our group's members are clearly global citizens whose religious formations reflect universal experiences that fit us for membership in our global village church. We studied Robert Greenleaf's theories of "Servant Leadership" as a foundation for applying leadership theory in a local global Christian community. Although Greenleaf's philosophy of leadership is secular it reflects the character of Jesus' teaching that a leader is first a servant.

Our search was to discover how we could serve collaboratively within a global village church. Our first task was for each of us members to claim for ourselves the spiritual worldview reflected in "This Is My Song" (sometimes known as "The Song of Peace"). "This Is My Song" is a 1934 hymn written by Lloyd Stone (1912-1993) using the Finlandia Hymn melody composed by Jean Sibelius. The last verse is by Georgia Harkness (1891-1974).

This is my song, O God of all the nations,

A song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is;

Here are my hopes, my dreams, and my sacred shrine.

But other hearts in other lands are beating,

With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,

And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.

But other lands have sunlight too and clover,

And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.

O hear my song, O God of all the nations,

A song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:

Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.

Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,

And hearts united learn to live as one.

O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations;

Myself I give thee, let thy will be done.

TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師

We were delighted to meet missionaries Giovenni and Joanna Arma from California, who came to visit us for 5 days at the beginning of May. For the last 2 years, they have been traveling around the world, so far they have visited 15 countries and 44 towns and cities, relying on God and Christians who they meet for their accommodation and hospitality. They were in Taiwan for 2 weeks and busy sharing the Gospel at every opportunity! There were so many opportunities for them on the streets of Keelung, even just using English. In the photo below, they were running an activity for our youth in the church. They have another 7 months of traveling and hope to end up in Jerusalem before returning home.

Rev. Richard Lee will attend the 40th anniversary and consultation of the Episcopal Asiamerica Min-

istry (EAM) in San Francisco, California from June 20-24. This will be his first trip to the USA, and we hope he will have the chance to also visit some of the EAM ministries in California on the same visit.

On Mother's Day we had a wonderful Thanksgiving Service for all mothers, and we were pleased that over 100 people attended (see photos on this page). There were songs by the children, and flowers and gifts presented to all mothers and grandmothers.

Our Grace Encounter Program has started a new series of meetings on Saturday mornings at Trinity Church. This is an initiative of 2 of our cell groups. We have 5 cell groups, 2 of them have come together for this activity. So far 16 non-Christians are attending the program.

On March 23, we held an outing for children and parents involved in our after-school homework classes to the Flying Cow Ranch in Miao-Li County (see top photo, previous page). It was a wonderful day amongst the sunflowers!

On Easter Day we were delighted to hold an outing and Easter service in Jin-Gua-Shr, the old gold-mining area on the N. E. coast of Taiwan. We borrowed the Jin-Gua-Shr Presbyterian Church for our service at 11:00am (their own service was at 9:00am). Over 70 people took part in this outing.

On Trinity Sunday this year, our church celebrated its 49th birthday. We are already making extensive plans for our 50th anniversary celebrations next year, 2014. Inspired by the wonderful 50th anniversary booklet produced by St. Mark's Church, Ping-tung last year, we would like to do something similar. It is a nice way to remember our history and to give thanks to God for his faithfulness over the last half-century. We invite any of you who know Trinity Church, past or present, and would like to write some memories or share some thoughts to be published in the book. Also if anyone has any old photos of Trinity Church, please send them in.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華牧師

February this year was full of God's grace. One of our children, A-Lu (呂辰瀚) who has been attending our tutoring class since second grade, was baptized on February 24. His grandfather attended our Alpha Course for senior people earlier this year, and we were all inspired by his hard learning.

Bishop Lai and Mrs. Lily Lai visited us on February 17 (see bottom photo), and we were glad to have Ms. C. H. Chen receive confirmation on that day.

At the 53rd Annual Convention in March, it was formally announced that St. Stephen's Mission would be upgraded to 'mission church' status, and would, from now on, be known as St. Stephen's Church. This is great news for us!

Six of our children were invited to visit Mercedes-Benz in April (see photo left). They were invited to sit in a brand-new car, and received hospitality as royal guests. What a gracious day it was for those children! We gave the same photo to each child as a souvenir.

A total of 44 people went to Song-Lo village in Yi-Lan on March 30, and we had an open-air Easter Vigil and Easter Morning Service (see photo left).

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正

On January 6 we were delighted to welcome a total of 8 people for confirmation.

On March 16 St John's Cathedral held a Renewal of Wedding Vows Service for three couples, one couple was celebrating 45 years of marriage, and 2 couples were celebrating 10 years (see photos above). One of these couples was Tim Liu and his wife (above photo right), son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Michael Liu. Everyone who attended was deeply touched and abundantly blessed. It was a wonderful service, especially for the three couples celebrating!

On Easter Eve we were delighted to welcome one person for baptism. On Easter Day we celebrated Easter at St John's Cathedral with a lunch box each, and after lunch we held Easter activities on the nearby National Taiwan University NTU Campus.

From April 9 - June 29, St John's Cathedral is holding a 10-week Alpha course, all those interested in the Gospel are welcome.

On March 2 our Young Professional Fellowship held a spring tour to the Gold Museum, Jiu-Fen, in the mountains above Keelung.

On March 7, our senior group, the Evergreen Fellowship visited St. Stephen's Church.

On Saturday March 23, Bishop John C. T. Chien's Memorial Service was held at St. John's Cathedral and attended by church members, clergy, visitors and representatives of many other churches.

On Sunday April 14, we were pleased to welcome Canon Chuck Robertson, chaplain to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, to preach at St. John's Cathedral (see photo left) during his visit to Taiwan to make preparations for the House of Bishops meeting in Taiwan, 2014. Rev. David Chee kindly translated the sermon.

On Mother's Day, May 12, we were pleased to welcome the children of St. John's Cathedral Sunday School to sing and perform for their mothers.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峯牧師

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地顧問牧師

On Easter Day, St. James' Chinese congregation joined with friends from the Church of the Leading Star, Taiping, Grace Church, Tainan and St. Peter's Church in Chia-Yi to spend the day together on the Kumquat Farm in Chia-Yi County. Over 100 of us traveled on 2 buses and 2 cars from Taichung, over 60 from Grace Church and 30 from St. Peter's Church, so we had a grand total of almost 200 people! What a glorious way to celebrate the day of resurrection!

The Kumquat Farm is run by a third-generation Christian family who kindly lent us their chapel for an Easter Day service. Choirs from the different churches sang, Rev. Simon Tsou from St. Peter's preached the sermon, and youth from the different churches led the worship. After the service there was a wonderful buffet lunch followed by a tour of the farm and kumquat factory, where they make the kumquats into jams and juices and all sorts of delicacies. On the way home, St. James' Church group visited the Honey Farm and outdoor street in Gu-Keng, Yunlin County, home to Taiwan coffee. St. James' Church group are shown in the photo below.

The previous evening we had celebrated the Easter Vigil with a combined service for both Chinese and English congregations at St. James. The Easter fire was lit outside in the kindergarten playground before we walked inside and the first half of the service was conducted entirely by candlelight (see photos above). Choirs from both congregations sang beautifully! After the service there were wonderful refreshments, more like a buf-

fet dinner, held downstairs.

St. James' Church is very pleased to have received the gift of 30 copies of the Book of Common Prayer and 30 copies of the Hymnal (1982) from The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of the Episcopal Church, based in New York. We sincerely thank the Rev. Dr. David G. Henritzy and the Society for their generous and kind gift. The books will greatly enhance our worship.

We had intensive training for our Youth Service-Learning Team from January 26-27, and then the Team of 16 went to the Church of the Leading Star, in Taiping, and Guanglong Elementary School, also in Taiping, to host the Children Camps on January 28-29. In addition, most members of the Team participated in the 'Excellent Character Camp' which was held at St. James' Church from January 30-February 1.

A 'Life Camp' organized especially for teenagers was held at Sun Moon Lake and Formosan Culture Village from February 4-5. This camp was led by our rector, Rev. Philip Lin, and assisted by deacon Rev. Joseph Ho and church secretary Terry Lee. On February 4, all the participants (16 youngsters plus 3 adults) stayed in the dormitory of the Presbyterian Church at Sun Moon Lake for the night; and there was an enjoyable party, a sort of revival meeting, that evening.

From February 27-28, a joint retreat for Vestry and Executive Committee members was held at Sun Moon Lake Youth Activity Center (see photo below). 21 people joined the retreat, the theme of which was "Our Visions and Objectives". Led by Rev. Philip Lin, we saw the significance of a local church and we had an important discussion about the core vision of St. James' Church. Our core vision was finally concluded as: "St. James' vision is to be a healthy church where the congregation can experience God's word, renew spiritual life, and witness the love of the Lord." With this vision in our hearts, we hope that our church will develop in the right direction, to reach our next goal at a faster speed, by means of Alpha Courses and other effective strategies. This year we will continue to develop our Cell Groups and use the Alpha Course as a means of spreading the Good News of the Lord Jesus.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick and his wife Bea, Rev. Peter Wu and his wife Mimi, all from the Diocese of Hawaii to visit St. James' Church for the weekend in March. After the morning service, we were pleased to be able to take them to visit Sun Moon Lake and the Formosan Cultural Village for an overnight visit.

Prayer: It will cost us about NT$2,000,000 to refurnish the outside of the church. We are asking all our brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for this matter.

ST. JAMES' ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONGREGATION

By Warren Sevander

"...A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven"

During the past several months, nothing has been made clearer than these words, taken from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. For during the past months, there have been changes and experiences which have significantly impacted the lives of the Christian community in many congregations. The English language congregation at St. James is one of those Christian communities that have been affected by recent events.

March was a very eventful month. On March 3, there was a combined worship service (see photos here). Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawaii, preached the sermon and participated in the celebration of Holy Eucharist. Rev. Philip Lin was celebrant, and Jerry Liang translated Bishop Fitzpatrick's sermon. Earlier that morning, I had the pleasure of being one of several persons who had breakfast together with Bishop Fitzpatrick, his wife , Rev. Peter Wu and Mrs. Mimi Wu.

On March 5, after a short illness, Bishop John Chien passed away. A very excellent memorial has already been written and published about this, so I am not going to go into those details here. What I do want to mention, though, is that during the time that I knew him, Bishop Chien became a good friend to me, as well as being one of my mentors regarding how to lead a worship service. I was always impressed by his joyful, kind, and gentle spirit; I will miss him. On March 16, a memorial service for Bishop Chien was held at St. Peter's Church in Chia-Yi City. Members of the Chinese and English language congregations rode a tour bus together to attend the service; the English language congregation's choir participated by singing a special anthem during the service. We were accompanied on that trip by Reverend Philip Wong, visiting priest from Hong Kong. The following day, March 17, Rev. Wong participated in the English language congregation's worship service, and preached.

Holy Week was memorable at St. James. On Palm Sunday, the Holy Gospel consisted of a dramatic reading of the Passion of our Lord as recorded by Luke. Rev. Jason Ke, Jerry Liang, and I led the service, with Hans Geiger and Shirley Ke also having speaking parts. The Congregation all participated by reading not only those words which the crowd

spoke, but also those words spoken by Peter when he was asked about his knowledge of and relationship to the Lord Jesus: Peter's denials. On Saturday night, March 30, there was a combined service for The Great Vigil of Easter. Members of both congregations took part in the reading of the lessons. Choirs from both congregations filled the chapel with beautiful songs of praise. Rev. Philip Lin preached the sermon. It was a glorious night of celebration. The Light of Christ and the power of the resurrection certainly were seen and experienced that night. On Easter Day, the English language congregation celebrated the resurrection in word and song; Rev. Jason Ke celebrated Holy Eucharist and allowed me the privilege of preaching the sermon. The English language choir sang as an anthem, Easter Song. This is a contemporary song about the joy of the resurrection written by Annie Herring in 1971. It was first recorded in 1974 by the music group that she is a part of, 'The Second Chapter of Acts'. It has been said that the piano introduction to the song is "the single most recognizable intro in contemporary Christian music." The song is one of my all-time favorite worship songs, and it was so exciting to hear it sung on Easter. "Joy to the world, He is risen, hallelujah...."

Recently, Rev. David Chee, our dear friend and regularly visiting priest, underwent quintuple bypass surgery. He is recovering well, but it will be some time before he is able to travel. As a congregation, we created a photographic 'get well card' for him (see photos here). Some of the members of our congregation have visited David during their recent visits to Taipei. We pray continually for David's complete and speedy recovery. God's speed, David.

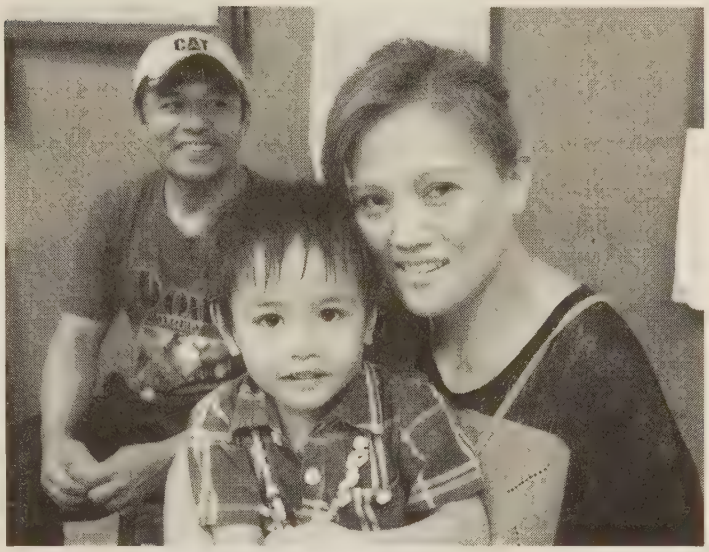
The English Language Bible Study recently completed an inductive Bible study of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1 – 7:29). On the Mondays following Palm Sunday and Easter, we watched the Movie 'The Passion of the Christ" and discussed how the film illustrates the Gospel accounts of the Passion of our Lord. During May and for the first 2 Mondays in June we are studying the Nicene Creed. We have learned about the history of how the creed came to be written, as well as studied Bible verses that directly relate to this statement of belief. After we complete our survey of the Nicene Creed, we will begin another inductive Bible study. This time, we will be studying the first 3 chapters of the Revelation: The Letters to the Seven Churches.

So, this has been a period of time where we all have adjusted to the unexpected changes that life brings. But, if that was all that life was about, 'making adjustments', it would make for a bleak, unrewarding experience. I think the lesson that God has been teaching us during these past months is that the only thing we can be most sure of is His grace and loving care. For in the midst of personal sorrow and challenge, there also has been redemption, baptism, spiritual growth, and encouragement. "To everything there is a season...." We all look forward with anticipation to see how the Lord will be leading us in the weeks and months to come.

THE CHURCH OF THE LEADING STAR, TAIPING

Mr. Joseph Ho Ray-En 何睿恩會吏

Happy Mother's Day!



The second Sunday in May is Mother's Day. The Church of the Leading Star and the Episcopal Church Kindergarten celebrated this big event this year (see photos on this page). There were two reasons why it was so important for us to celebrate: firstly, mothers are so important for our church and kindergarten; without mothers, there would be no children, no kindergarten, no infant baptism, no Sunday school, no youth, no church members. Secondly, mothers show their love and care to their children; wherever children go, as long as their mother is there, everywhere will feel like home.

The kindergarten held a special Mother's Day activity. We had beautiful decorations, homemade dishes by every family, and the children danced and sang. The atmosphere was filled with love and warmth, everyone had a wonderful time.

The Leading Star Church also held an activity for Mother's Day, although only one parent and child came along. Actually this was the first time that parents of the kindergarten had come to church, so we were all very grateful to God.

In order to upgrade the Leading Star Kindergarten facilities, a large-scale engineering project has been taking place over the last few months, and is now almost completed. Now the first floor is almost finished, and the church walls are being painted with their final coat of paint as I write this. It has been a wonderful thing to see God being with us, having him leading the project smoothly and safely.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新牧師

How wonderful for our English Bible Study group, we had a celebration dinner when we finished the semester in January. We were so happy for one of our Bible Study group, Grace Lin, who was a seeker in our group, because she and her husband Benjamin Lee decided to receive baptism.

Our seniors fellowship group had a lecture class about senior health care. We invited Dr. Chen, a church elder from a nearby church to come and share with us, he is also former director of Chia-Yi Christian Hospital. He was so kind and humorous, and he taught us a lot of health common sense. We are so grateful to Dr. Chen. Everyone had a good time.

We were honored to host Bishop John C. T. Chien's Funeral on Saturday March 16, at which our choir sang an anthem and our church members helped to welcome everyone to the event. This event is covered on page 3 and 4 of this magazine.

We have three new church members who received baptism on Easter Eve (see photo above). Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Benjamin and Grace, they are both teachers from senior high schools, Grace is also our English Bible Study member. Also Natalia Liu was baptized, she is a high school senior student, she will go to National Kaohsiung University of Hospitality and Tourism this September.

On Easter Day morning, four of our Episcopal Churches came together for worship at The Kumquat Farm. We had 30 members to join that outing, including Mrs. Grace Chien, her daughter Jasmine and children (see photo left). We were so happy and had a lot of fun at that time, and we hope we can invite more churches to come next time.

GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師

On Easter Day, we were so happy to be able to join with St. James' Church, the Church of the Leading Star and St. Peter's Church to go together to the Kumquat Farm in Chia-Yi County. We were there to celebrate Easter and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. 43 people from Grace Church took part in this celebration (see top and bottom photos). It was wonderful to share sweet fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches in this region of Taiwan.

On Sunday April 28, it was our pleasure to welcome retired priest Rev. Luke Chen 陳宏行牧師 and his wife to Grace Church. Rev. Luke Chen preached and we were also pleased to have a baptism service for Rev. Chen's 2 granddaughters and one other person, and to welcome them into the Lord's family (see middle photo).

We celebrated Mother's Day on Saturday May 4 with a delicious hot pot meal, then gifts for all the mothers, and together we went to Mrs. Wang's home, one of our church members. On Mother's Day during the church service our youth group sang a beautiful song to wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

53rd Diocesan Annual Convention hosted by St. Mark's Church

The 53rd Annual Convention of the Taiwan Episcopal Church was successfully held at St. Mark's Church (Opening Service and first lunch) and Grand Hotel (conference venue) on March 1-2. There were around 80 delegates in attendance, including clergy (see photo above). The last convention held at St. Mark's was in 1978, the 18th convention. Now 35 years later, we met in St.

Mark's, Pingtung again. We thank God for the participation of our church members in all the preparations, arranging the church, cooking the welcome lunch, and welcoming all the visitors from far and wide. We tried our best to host people coming from everywhere to feel at home. May God bless every one of our church member's hard work.

Our volunteers are shown in the 2 photos here.

VISIT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Seven of our members participated in the funeral service of our late bishop, the Rt. Rev. John C. T. Chien. The funeral service was held at St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi, on March 16.

The new semester of our weekend children's activity began on March 16 through to June 22, there are 18 children participating this term.

We went to TRA Chutian Station for our Easter outing on Easter Day afternoon, the station is now the only rest station that is built in Japanese wooden style in Pingtung County. The station is also a historical spot appointed and protected by the county government. Even though that day was rainy, we still had a wonderful time. In the evening we went to have a famous regional food, the 'goose noodles' for dinner in Neipu, the place where the National Pingtung University of Technology and Science is located.

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

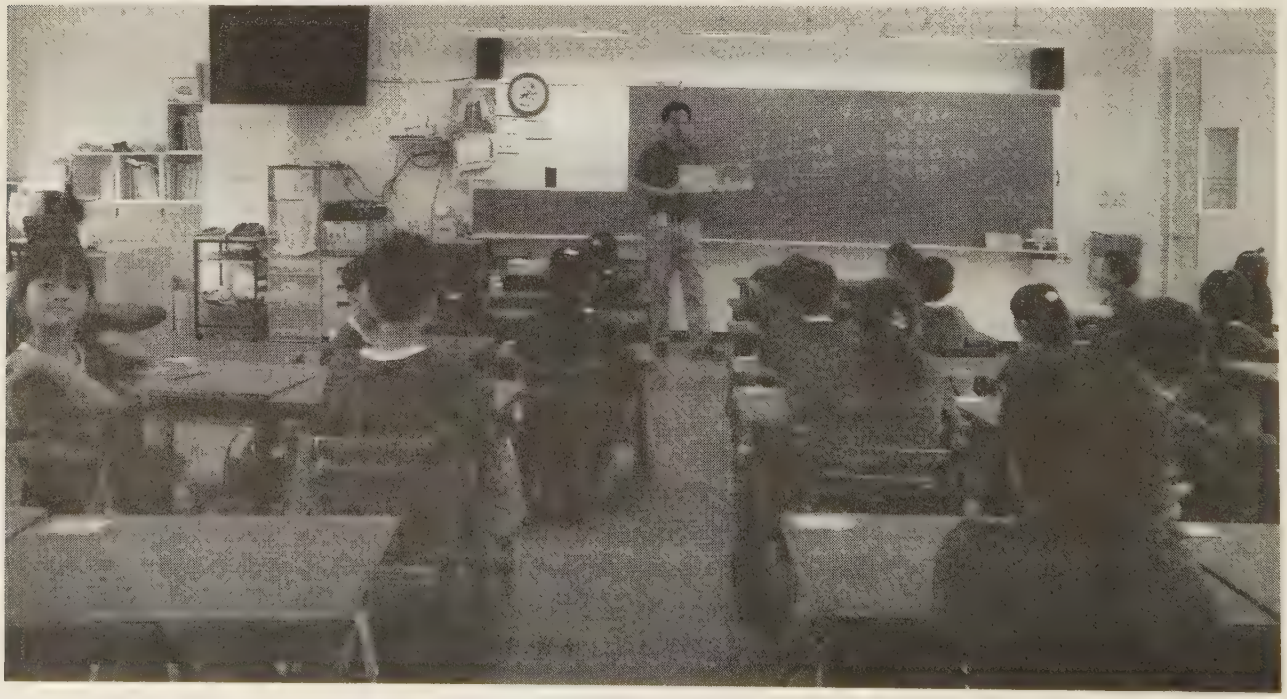
Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

The Rt. Rev. Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawaii, visited St. Andrew's mission station with his wife Bea on February 28 (see photo right). Rev. Lee accompanied Bishop Bob visiting the area around the mission station, we shared with him the mission works that we are doing, and illustrated our challenges and the superstition in this fishing village. In God's grace and leading, we fear nothing to continue to proclaim the grace of God and the love of Jesus Christ to people here. In the evening, we had a wonderful seafood dinner hosted by Bishop Lai, and had a good time.

Our youth fellowship went on an exciting outing to Yang-Ming Museum of Marine Exploration in Chijing, Kaohsiung, to visit the worldwide shipping Yang-Ming Marine Corporation which is an important shipping company of Taiwan's seaborne trade (see photo right). We learned much about the long history of the global shipping industry. We went to Chijing and back by ferry, it was so much fun and so exciting to every one of us because for most of us it was the first time traveling by ferry.

Rev. Keith Lee goes to Jie-Ding Primary School once a week, to teach students behavior and life education through picture books, including Bible stories (see photo below). Here in this remote area, children's hearts are innocent, pure, and they are very polite to their elders (such as teachers, and I am playing the role as their teacher also). Therefore the behavior and life (or religion) education is not as hard as we imagined it would be. A Taoist teacher welcomes a Christian minister to go into the classroom, and to give the children such good news and help from the Church. One day, I asked the children: "Do you want to hear the stories about Jesus?" I heard them all say: "Yes....!!" Then I said: "Who wants to hear about Jesus? Please raise your hands." Then, all hands were raised and all answered: "I do… I do..." Thanks be to God, maybe it is just only from curiosity, but I believe it is God's work and leading.

Our mission needs your support, please pray for us.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師

On Sunday January 20, All Saints Church held a commissioning service for Vestry members. Originally there were 6 Vestry members, now we have increased the number to 8.

Activities for Lent were delayed slightly this year as Ash Wednesday coincided with Chinese New Year Festival, so it was delayed until Sunday February 17. On March 22, we spent a morning making Palm Crosses, ready for Palm Sunday. During Holy Week, we had services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, all at 7:30pm.

At the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil we were pleased to welcome 45 people to worship.

On Easter Day, we also presented the annual All Saints Church scholarships to 6 of our youth, all in junior high school or above.

This year our church Bible reading program will complete our 4-year course of reading through the whole Bible. We started the latest program in March and it will run until November, reading usually one (or sometimes two) chapters of the Bible per day. 10 people are following this program. Next year we will start again from Genesis, but with added commentary and golden verses to remember.

On Sunday April 28, after our morning service we invited Mrs. Hsu Pai-Hui, ECW chair, who came to share with us about her specialty, Thai food. Under her guidance, we prepared 3 dishes, all very delicious!

Once a month on a Monday, we organize an outing for our church members and friends. In March we visited Ao-zi-dhi Forest Park in Kaohsiung where we particularly enjoyed the beautiful flowers (see photo left). In April we went to Moon World in Kaohsiung (see photo below). This is a natural landscape that is so salty that nothing will grow, so it looks rather like the moon with no plants. It is very barren and gray, but very interesting.

On May 12, Mother's Day, all of our church members and their families went out to lunch after the Sunday service. The meal was free for all mothers, everyone else paid a small amount. All mothers also received a nice gift from the church. 43 came along to this event.

From May 5 onwards, on the first Sunday afternoon of each month at All Saints, the Southern Deanery has a class called 'Renewal of Life' based on Luke's Gospel 'Here is the Man'. 14 people are participating in this class. We will have 8 classes between now and January.

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

On January 5, the whole church held a outing to the tropical gardens (see photo below). It was so good that Bishop John Chien and his wife also came along.

From January 28-9, during the Chinese New Year school vacation, we held a weekend youth gospel camp in Nantou. The theme was 'Meeting Jesus' from Luke's Gospel looking at Jesus' birth, teaching, suffering, death and resurrection. We had many activities including sharing together, games, worship, videos and small groups. We also visited Sun Moon Lake and Puli. This camp was a really good way of bringing the youth from St. Timothy's and from Jia-Shian Outreach Center together to deepen their fellowship and understanding of the Christian faith.

Our adult Sunday School has been studying the major prophets in their Bible studies, and now we are moving onto the lesser prophets. Our 2 devotional cell groups are studying Colossians and Philippians. Our 2 gospel outreach groups are studying Luke's Gospel. In the children's Sunday School our theme for this semester is 'Wise Choices', based on stories from the Books of Kings and Chronicles. Our college students group and youth group are studying some of the writings of Henri Nouwen written for young people.

Our youth group has now become 2 groups according to age. As well as Bible studies, we also have classes for the youth in piano, drums and guitar.

On March 23, we held a camp for children on the theme of 'Character Challenge Go Go Go'.

Our ministry in Jia-Shian continues well. In January we held a weekend camp at the Outreach Center. On January 28-9 we invited 5th and 6th grade elementary school children from our children's group to attend our St. Timothy's youth gospel camp. On Fridays we hold our children's and youth outreach, at different times, using character education. We also had an Easter outreach there on March 23.

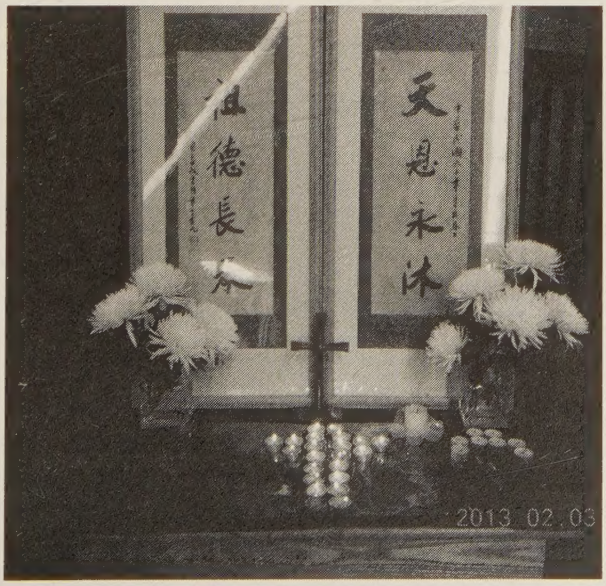
A good number of our church members attended Bishop John C. T. Chien's Memorial Service on Saturday March 16 at St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi with hearts full of thanksgiving for his life and ministry among us.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Philip Ho Jeng-Long 何政隆牧師

The traditional Chinese New Year is a very happy festival, full of many typical symbols such as dancing dragons, jumping lions, firecrackers, and Spring Festival couplets. We invited families of our kindergarten to make some creative modern Spring Festival couplets on January 19 (see photo above).

Every year, the Diocese of Taiwan has a special Memorial Sunday to honor and cherish the memory of our ancestors on the Sunday before Chinese New Year. On February 3, we set up a special altar for the congregation to light candles to honor the memory of their ancestors. The two sentences that were set on the altar were written by the very famous calligrapher, Ma Shou-hua, the father of our diocesan chancellor, Dr. Herbert Ma. The right sentence means "Bathed in heavenly grace forever." The left sentence means "Continuing the good character of our ancestors to the future generations" (see bottom photo). The lit candles on the altar were shaped into a cross to honor our Lord.



It was our pleasure that the Bishop of Hawaii, Bishop Robert L. Fitzpatrick and his wife Bea visited us on February 28. We gave them a set of Chinese Spring Festival couplets as a gift (see middle photo). Bishop Fitzpatrick and his wife left a nice message to inspire us to proclaim our Lord's salvation: "With my prayers and deep respect for your sense of Evangelism and faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ! + Robert L. Fitzpatrick." "Aloha from Hawaii. Bea Fitzpatrick."

Ms. Evan Wu, a miraculous sister who is full of our Lord's great mercy and grace, shared with us on March 10 (see right photo). Evan and her 2 small children were baptized on July 29, 2012. Two days later, she had spinal surgery. The doctors told her that her spinal problems were caused by cancer that had spread to her spine and they gave her 6 months to live. In fact since the surgery, she has felt much better and can almost work normally in her office and take care of her 9 year old girl and 6 year old boy. This February she suddenly felt very ill and rushed to the emergency room to be checked by doctors. This time the doctor discovered that her problems were caused by a bacterial infection. She felt much better very quickly, in fact the doctor in charge was amazed that she should be feeling so well with such a serious infection. In fact she continues to astound doctors. Despite still being diagnosed as being in the final stages of terminal cancer, and going though chemotherapy, in fact she doesn't look at all unwell, and can work normally. She feels so full of joy because of the Lord's great mercy and grace. Please pray for her, her husband (who comes to church but is not yet a Christian), her children, and her colleagues.

In the middle photo below, taken on Easter Day, March 31, our lovely children's choir is saying the Lord's Prayer. They attended our Easter Holy Communion to sing three hymns to praise our Lord.

To celebrate Easter Day, we invited all the teachers and some families of the children of St. Paul's Kindergarten to join with us (see bottom photo below).

May 12, Mother's day was a happy day. Mrs. Hu Show-lan was baptized together with her little boy Tsai Wen-jun. Mrs. Fu May-Lien, the mother of Show-lan, grand mom of Wen-jun, came from Jiangxi, China to visit her daughter and take care of her grandson. Sister Fu was baptized in her hometown 20 years ago. She has a very firm faith in our Lord Jesus and prays for her daughters and grandchildren every day. Before she came to Taiwan, she heard that her grandson Wen-jun had got two small warts (HPV) on his left finger that caused him discomfort.

Sister Fu prayed for her grandson about this problem and in the short time of the first week of her coming to her daughter's home, the two small HPV disappeared. That miraculous event made Show-lan increase her faith in our Lord and she decided to be baptized together with her son on Mother's Day.

The happy Mother's Day made each of the thirteen mothers feel so glad to get a special gift which was a crystal cross necklace made by sister Choa Shu-Huey (third from left, photo below).

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Rev. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明龍牧師

We were delighted to join with lots of other Hualien Churches on Easter Day, Sunday March 31 for an ecumenical sunrise service from 6:00-7:00am on the plaza outside Hualien County Hall. There were about 70 people there to celebrate the resurrection!

We are pleased that our Alpha Course continues twice a year. Our Christian Mission Study Series also continues well. We also have 1-1 Bible studies titled 'From Doubt to Faith" and discipleship training programs.

On May 5, we held a gathering for our Sunday School parents to meet the Sunday School teachers. We have 9 children who regularly come to Sunday School and 5 of their parents came to the meeting.

At our Mother's Day service, all our mothers were presented with flowers. (see photo below).

At the 53rd diocesan annual convention in March, the chair of our Bishop's Committee, Mr. Yang Ming formally invited the Diocese of Taiwan to accept St. Luke's Church invitation to host next year's convention.

We are looking forward to welcoming the 54th Diocesan Annual Convention to St. Luke's Church, Hualien in March 2014.

TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

臺灣聖公會通訊

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